GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4199
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2000
TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
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Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects cleared by the Government under the Tourism Infrastructure Development Scheme to promote Tourism in the country during the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the central assistance provided by the Union Government to enable the concerned State Governments to complete their projects and the terms and conditions on the basis of which the central assistance was provided;

(c) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the misutilization of the funds and irregularities in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of projects completed in each State so far and the reasons for delay in the completion of the remaining projects;

(e) the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to realise the prescribed target and to promote tourism in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)

(a) and (b) : The Central Department of Tourism provides funds to State Govts./Union Territories for projects identified in consultation with them every year for development of infrastructure. During 1997-2000, 1016 projects amounting to Rs.226.89 crores were sanctioned to various states/UTs. The Statement is annexed. The terms and conditions of the sanction of projects are: -

(i) the project should be submitted in the prescribed format along with the blue print for the project duly prepared/vetted by CPWD/PWD;

(ii) the first instalment of 30% of the total cost of the project is released at the time of sanction;

(iii) the second instalment of 50% on receipt of utilization certificates and third instalment of 20% is released on receipt of completion and commissioning certificates of the project.

(c) to (f) : The completion of projects and utilisation of funds is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories.Projects are in various stages of implementation. The project should be completed within a maximum period of 30 months from the date of sanction. State Governments/Union Territory Administration however, sometimes encounter problems of transfer of land, timely release of State share funds, etc. which often delay the completion of the projects. In order to monitor the progress of the projects, a monitoring committee has been set up. Regional Committees consisting of Regional Directors/Directors of Govt. of India Tourist Offices and State Govts. have been formed to oversee the implementation of the projects. Senior officers of the Deptt. of Tourism also review projects under construction during their visits to various states to monitor their implementation. In various other forums also the State Govts. are advised to complete the projects expeditiously.

In addition to strengthening tourist infrastructure in the country, Govt. of India Tourist Offices located in various countries promote tourism through publicity campaigns, tourism Expos etc. Use of Information Technology and setting up Kiosks are also steps in this direction.